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Bay State Historical League

PUBLICATION IV



PROCEEDINGS

1903 - 1904 - 1905 - 1906 - 1907



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BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE

Publication IV

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1903 - 1904 - 1905 - 1906 - 1907



BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE



THE Sixth Meeting of persons interested in the formation of the Bay State Historical League, and which resulted in a permanent organization, was held May 20, 1903, in the home of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 18 Somerset street, Boston. The following local societies were represented: Somerville, Ipswich, Wakefield, Watertown, Arlington, Billerica, Lynn, Concord Antiquarian, Peabody, Danvers, Lexington, Shepard Memorial. John F. Ayer presided.

A nominating committee, consisting of John W. Porter, of Danvers, F. Gaylord Cook, of the Shepard Memorial Society, and George Y. Wellington, of Arlington, was named by the chair to present a list of officers for the ensuing year.

The committee reported as follows: For President, John F. Ayer, of Somerville; Secretary, George O. Smith, of Lexington; Treasurer, Rev. T. Frank Waters, of Ipswich; Executive Committee, Rev. Edward A. Rand, of Watertown, John W. Porter, of Danvers, George Tolman, of Concord, Rev. Dr. Oscar F. Safford, of Peabody, and the President, Secretary, and Treasurer, ex-officio.

George O. Smith declined the nomination, and Frederick E. Fowle, of Arlington, was named in his stead. The entire list was elected by the casting of one ballot by the Secretary of the meeting.

On motion of Mr. Wellington, it was voted that the Executive Committee "notify the several Historical Societies of the state of the formation of the League and invite them to join."

Remarks concerning the work of the organization were made by several of the representatives, and Mr. Rand spoke concerning the work of the Watertown Society.

The Seventh Meeting, February 18, 1904, was held at No. 50 State street. Eleven societies were represented, the President in the chair.

The deaths of Rev. Edward A. Rand, President of the Watertown Society, George O. Smith, President of the Lexington Society, and John W. Porter, of the Danvers Society, were impressively referred to by the President as having occurred since the last meeting of the League. These men were earnestly interested in the success of the Bay State Historical League, attending the preliminary meetings and taking active part in the deliberations.

Five societies applied for membership in the League, viz., Billerica, Littleton, Methuen, Nantucket, and Swampscott, and were unanimously elected.

Features of the approaching annual meeting were discussed. The details were left with the Executive Committee to arrange.

The President had caused to be sent to the several societies of the state during the past months a list of vital questions, as follows :—

1. NAME. Full official name of your Society.
2. ADDRESS. Post-office address, with name of official to whom communications should be sent.
3. HISTORY. Brief outline, including dates of formation and incorporation. Changes of name, if any. Other important events. Also references to any published sources of fuller information.
4. OBJECT. As given in your Constitution or Act of Incorporation.
5. MEETINGS. Time and place when business meetings are held. Other meetings. List of officers and committees from the beginning, designating the years of each list.
6. MEMBERSHIP. Number of members; active, honorary, corresponding, etc., with amount of entrance fees and annual dues paid by each class.
7. SERIAL PUBLICATIONS. Exact title of each serial publication issued by your Society since its foundation. Period covered, place and dates of publications, and size, also list of contents for each year.

8. OTHER PUBLICATIONS. Copies if they can be spared would be appreciated.

9. DISTRIBUTION OF PUBLICATIONS. Conditions of exchange. Price. Place of sale.

10. LECTURES OR TALKS. When and where. Number each season and number of years maintained. List of subjects treated, names of writers or speakers. Percentage of attendance.

11. SPECIAL WORK. Give list of such during the several years and state what is being undertaken this year.

12. HISTORIC SITES. Name the historic sites, houses, monuments, tablets in your town, with brief descriptions of each class; also by whom or at whose suggestion or expense the monuments or tablets have been erected or placed.

13. HEADQUARTERS. Give location. If an historic building, give sketch of its history. State whether owned by your Society or leased, or whether furnished by town at its expense.

14. METHOD OF WORK. Concerning the literary meetings: State whether or not the social features have been prominent; whether or not music has been made a feature, whether or not your meetings have been wholly of a literary character, whether or not refreshments are provided at these meetings, and whether or not your methods have proved satisfactory and adapted to the growth of interest in historical work in your town.

15. LIBRARY. Give number of volumes, pamphlets, broadsides, unpublished manuscripts, photographs, prints, and sketches.

16. COLLECTIONS. Give number, with brief sketch of the more important. Also number of Colonial and Revolutionary commissions, deeds, etc., giving names of persons referred to.

Any other information will also be acceptable, and the League urges you to furnish such as far as practicable.

The answers obtained were exhibited at this meeting. It was voted that a committee of one, to be named by the President, be appointed to formulate a plan for printing these an-

swers and to obtain an estimate of the expense. John Albree, Jr., was named as the committee.

A nominating committee was also provided to bring in a list of candidates for the ensuing year to report at the annual meeting.

The Eighth Meeting, by the courtesy of President Huntington, of Boston University, was held in the apartments of that institution, No. 12 Somerset street, April 30, 1904. Fourteen local societies were represented, as follows: Arlington, Bedford, Billerica, Littleton, Lynn, Malden, Medford, Nantucket, Sharon, Somerville, Swampscott, Shepard, Watertown, and Wakefield.

Previous to the opening of the discussion the President, John F. Ayer, referred to the progress made in organizing and outlining the work of the League, saying in part:—

“A year ago this month the Bay State Historical League was organized and the government set about formulating a plan of operation.

“It was a new thing; there was no similar organization in existence, no precedents to refer to, to fall back upon.

“To bring the local organizations into the League, to ascertain the needs of each, the methods of work, the sources of success in this instance, the causes of partial failure in that, the formulating of plans whereby all might be benefited, the holding of meetings from time to time in various places, to organize societies where none exist, to stimulate historical study and assist the local societies in their efforts to preserve everything of value pertaining to the history of their several districts, by suggestion or advice.”

These were among the objects. He suggested the getting of vital statistics, the procuring of Neighborhood Sketches, and obtaining photographs of interesting spots and objects in each location throughout the state; these things to be carefully preserved by the local societies for the benefit of the coming generations.

The President called upon John Albree, President of the Swampscott Society. Mr. Albree, in presenting his report con-

cerning the many replies to the questions sent the local societies of the state, read a very carefully-prepared paper upon "The Local Society and Its Work."

He said in his opening: "If you have ever been fortunate enough to go into that portion of the South where the terms of the hunting field pass current in daily speech, you have heard it said of some one who argued his case that he 'put his gun in the feathers.'

"Now it is not my purpose to get near enough to blow this bird to pieces, but rather in this paper to show where the bird is, get our eyes and thought fastened on him, then we can discuss whether he is worth bringing down.

"I have here the replies to a series of questions sent out by the Bay State Historical League to the local historical societies of the state, and it is about them I am to report.

"Among the replies I have found these that are pertinent and well expressed, which I will submit to you for consideration:—

"(1) 'It has been well said that an historical society should be something more than a "strong box" to hold collections. It must be a living institution, and must show something accomplished every year to prove its life and growth.'

"(2) 'As a rule, we have confined ourselves strictly to local history, the only exception being an occasional paper or talk on more general historical subjects. As local subjects become exhausted, it will not be surprising if our meetings should take on more general character.'

"(3) 'Historical research is favored, but not prosecuted as a whole by its members, the idea being that a very few are really workers in this organization.'

"This statement is true generally, and any plans that are not based on this fundamental proposition come to naught.

"Yet along with this proposition, that the work is taken up by the few, there is also another undeniable proposition, namely, that there is a widespread and deep interest in matters and things historical. The problem of the Historical Society is to combine these two and get a satisfactory result.

"In one society a broader field is named 'to trace (the town's) connection with the larger life of the commonwealth or the nation.'

"How about the 'social feature'? When after the meeting you are discussing with your neighbor whether the house of the first settler was larger than the cellar hole, you will get along better if you can each of you toy with tea cups; and those who have prepared the tea will be much more loyal members if they can occasionally bring out their best china and set a pretty tea table.

"The most prominent subject in all the replies is that of the meetings and how to make them successful. Some have clearly succeeded, some modestly say their meetings might be better, but their annual programmes of sustained excellence are sufficient indications that they do succeed. Others seem quite discouraged. Shall these have the benefit of the experience of the societies represented in this League?

"If you persist in trying to cultivate a field that is near exhaustion, the crop must be meagre and disappointing. If the range of local subjects is still untouched, the probability is that the paper will be written, not because the writer has something to *say*, but because he is wanted to *talk*—a very different proposition.

"If he has something to tell of his enthusiastic research and study, it may safely be inferred that a brisk discussion will be started, and that after the meeting the audience will not make for the doors, as if they had trains to catch.

"If the paper is written in accordance with the old-time injunction, 'Occupy the time, brethren,' the hearers will be listless, and after a few meetings they will not come.

"Is this a correct diagnosis? What is the remedy? The field can be broadened, but at the same time the local feeling can be fostered and cherished. New lines of thought and research must be opened. Some will be suggested here this afternoon. Here is where the League will come in and be of value.

"I was wondering if 'the music of our ancestors' had been studied, and I find that one society reports a paper upon that topic.

"A paper is wanted, for instance, upon 'Old Furniture,' and among these replies I find one upon this subject. A paper upon the Boston Massacre might be wanted, and behold one society names it as the subject of one writer.

"If these furnished lists could be collected in some central

and convenient place, much time and duplication of work might be saved.

"Has your town a modern index? Are your gravestone inscriptions copied? Are your early deeds printed as are those in Suffolk County (Boston)? An historical society is a link, in that it collects the records of the past and preserves them for the future. It is work requiring patience, perseverance, enthusiasm, system. How can we aid?

"If I have succeeded in my purpose, I have shown where the bird is. He is still there. Shall we unite to bring him down, or shall we continue to hunt each in his own way?

"Abram English Brown, of the Bedford Society, thought the bird figuratively spoken of was still hidden in the garrets of our old New England homes, declaring we have no conception of the material yet at our command.

"The historian of the right sort is not the one who hoards material because it is old, but the one who rightly divides the treasures that come to his hand. Seek with all diligence for manuscripts, provincial, revolutionary, concerning any and all subjects." The speaker said he had one that proves that the auction block for the sale of negro slaves in Boston existed at one time.

"I believe in the work of the League, and hope its members will prove helpful to one another."

Charles E. Hosmer, President of the Billerica Society, thought local societies ought to recognize and record the important part their towns have played in the history of New England; that we should keep alive the veneration we have for the town meeting and the system of town government nowhere else so vigorous as in New England. The preservation of local self-government in all its vigor, as it exists in our country towns, is our chief hope for the future.

Let us resist as far as may be the curtailing of our powers as towns by the Legislature, and guard with jealousy the rights and privileges we have exercised for 250 years, with such happy results.

F. Gaylord Cook, Esq., Secretary of the Shepard Society, spoke briefly of the advantages that would be made available if the League kept a list of those speakers who could be secured

by a society when needed, or when making up their programme for the season; also, of the importance of securing material that is stored away in many families and very often considered by these people as of no special value.

Alexander Starbuck, President of the Nantucket Society, spoke of the value of individual notes on old buildings, photographs of prominent and picturesque localities, anecdotes of people, etc., as originally called for by the Sharon Society, and desired to know how well requests for such information were heeded.

David H. Brown, President of the Medford Society, referred to the advisability of preparing the season's programme some time in advance.

He thought the work of an historical society should not be entirely in connection with the past, but it should take an active interest in the affairs of the present.

Seth Mason, of the Somerville Society, spoke of the advantage of keeping in touch with some central bureau, whose purpose in part would be to select speakers to instruct local societies, and of the importance of social functions and the influence they had in increasing and retaining the membership.

Eugene Tappan, Esq., Secretary of the Sharon Society, spoke of the educational value of an historical society in instructing its members in the art of historical research. This can be done in a pleasant way by soliciting each member to write a brief article concerning some fact of town history. Such articles, being written on leaves of uniform size, furnished by the society, are to be bound as a book, and thus will form a useful volume for reference or for reading at the meetings of the society upon occasion.

Mr. Tappan read the list of subjects already written upon by contributors to the "Sharon Scrap Book."

H. N. Comey, of the Lynn Society, referred to the information gained through the sketch of Mr. Albree and the previous speakers as to the work, scope, and mission of the Bay State Historical League, and opening up large possibilities.

The organization could be made very practical as a bureau for the exchange of interesting historical papers. As an example he cited a paper on "Old Furniture," read before the

Medford Society, would be just as practical and interesting before any other society. This exchange of papers and speakers would add to the interest and value of membership in the League.

Mr. Comey spoke interestingly of the social features of the Lynn Society, declaring the stated gatherings of this character have become very popular, as well as the "field days" and outings held frequently during the warm season.

Deloraine P. Corey, President of the Malden Society, referred to the discouragements and encouragements which attend local historical societies. "The demands of social life in its many forms, which seem to increase, prevent a full attendance at meetings. In time non-attendance brings about a loss of interest, resulting in loss of members.

"Many citizens being natives of other towns, often of other states, retain a strong love for the place of their birth, and many fail to gain a deep interest in those things which concern the past of the place of their adoption. Hence co-operation in the work of the society cannot really exist, and the burden comes upon a few, who in turn may become disheartened."

But the bright side appears in his statement of encouragements. "Organization gives prestige and is in itself an element of strength. An instance: The local Historical Society, though straitened in membership and means, took up the question of the 250th anniversary of its town, which seemed liable to be passed by, and by the work of its officers and committees and the strength of its name aroused a public interest which brought about a celebration which was most successful.

"Afterwards it gave its attention to the records of its town, and caused them to be put into a proper condition and the vital records to be printed. Again it turned its attention, looking to the preservation of interesting historic sites, which after a long struggle appears to be brought to a successful issue. So much for the practical work of a society which has felt all the discouragements that can come to such an organization. The lesson is that a local society can do good work in the face of all the discouragements which can come to it."

At this meeting the Executive Committee was requested to

present some plan of united action at the coming annual and field meeting.

The Ninth Meeting, which was the annual meeting, by invitation of the Lexington Society, was held in that town on June 4, 1904, in the Unitarian Church. Fourteen societies were represented, to wit: Somerville, Arlington, Bedford, Lexington, Littleton, Malden, Methuen, Nantucket, Swampscott, Billerica, Shepard, Lynn, Medford, Watertown.

The President, John F. Ayer, called the meeting to order at 1.30 P. M. Because of the length of the report of the April meeting and the limited time that could be given to the business meeting, it was voted that the records be read at the next meeting.

The Executive Committee presented the following Plan of United Action:—

The League exists because there is a need for an organization that shall bring together representatives of the local historical societies, acquaint them with each other and with the results of methods adopted, and generally strengthen and broaden the study of local history. It does not seek or desire to have power over, or authority to bind, local societies, or to do anything to lessen the local feeling on the strength of which their success depends. Its functions are advisory only, and its methods may be changed from time to time as circumstances require.

Its present opportunities for action are:—

First. To maintain an organization, the need of which is evident to all who acquaint themselves with the local historical movement.

Second. To supply an existing want, by collecting in some convenient form for distribution, or in some accessible place for examination, lists of titles of papers read and names of speakers at the meetings of the various societies. At the meeting April 30 this request was made by many. The details will be announced later.

Third. To arrange for a general meeting of the League in the autumn, at which the general subject of the work of the

local historical society will be discussed, and opportunity given for a comparison of notes at the outset of the winter's work.

Fourth. To arrange from time to time a general investigation of some subject where the combined efforts of all the societies can be most effective, such, for example, as the Correspondence of the Committees of Safety in the Revolution.

The expense of maintaining such an organization ought to be small, and the benefits great, and they will be, if the societies generally become interested.

The report of the Secretary was read, and it was voted to accept the same and to place it on file.

The Treasurer, Howard Mudge Newhall, read his annual report, and it was voted that it be accepted and placed on file.

Seth Mason, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented the following list of candidates to serve for the ensuing year: For President, John F. Ayer, of Somerville; Secretary, Frederick E. Fowle, of Arlington; Treasurer, Howard Mudge Newhall, of Lynn; Executive Committee, the above-named officers and F. Gaylord Cook, of Cambridge, Alfred W. Putnam, of Danvers, George Tolman, of Concord, and Rev. Dr. Oscar F. Safford, of Peabody.

The above were unanimously elected to the several offices as indicated, after which the business meeting was adjourned.

The public meeting was held in the Unitarian Church, which had been profusely decorated with plants and flowers, the audience completely filling the pews.

Rev. Charles F. Carter, President of the Lexington Historical Society, gave an address of welcome, in which he alluded to the advantages of residing in Lexington, the inspiration of its history giving an added motive in life. He cordially invited the visitors to share with the townspeople in what the latter enjoyed and had to offer. He referred to the deep religious principles of the forefathers as the foundation of our government.

The President of the League in a fitting manner responded to the welcome, and introduced James P. Monroe, of Lexing-

ton, who gave a brief, gracefully-written, appreciative, and realistic sketch of the late President of the local society, and first Secretary of the League, George O. Smith. Mr. Smith was one of the most enthusiastic of the founders of the Bay State Historical League. The sterling character of the man was dwelt upon, his patriotism and beneficences detailed at some length.

The President then introduced as the principal speaker of the occasion Albert Bushnell Hart, Ph.D., Professor of American History at Harvard University, who read an unusually entertaining paper on "Historical Societies and Historical Research."

His frequent flashes of wit illumined a subject which might otherwise have been dry. He illustrated the difficulty of accumulating historic data and the illusiveness of facts. Another characteristic of history, he said, imparts a halo to great men not always associated with them in life.

History should teach us to speak the truth, while a sense of common duty to posterity should make us all careful to preserve facts which are calculated to make history. The real heart of history is oftenest in that personal expression, which describes the truth without constraining influences, and with the discerning eye that sees the drama without the confusion of the stage setting.

Before concluding the exercises with the singing of "America," a vote of thanks was given the speakers and essayists.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent under the tutelage of Rev. Carlton A. Staples, now deceased, the local historian, whose enthusiasm and delightful manner of imparting facts concerning the history of Lexington were intensely enjoyed by the visitors.

Mr. Staples spoke at the monument on the Battle Green at the old burying ground, and at the Hancock-Clark house, these being the chief spots visited. The many inscriptions on the old houses, the statue of the Minute Man, the belfry tower, and other objects were eagerly and critically examined.

The Tenth Meeting, being the winter meeting, was held in the Boston University Building, 12 Somerset street, Boston,

February 25, 1905. Representatives were present from Arlington, Billerica, Lynn, Medford, Sharon, Somerville, Shepard Memorial, Swampscott, Watertown, and Wakefield. The President, John F. Ayer, presided.

A brief time was devoted to social intercourse, and at 2.30 P. M. the business meeting was called to order. The records of the previous meeting were read and approved, and it was voted that the records of the April 30, 1904, meeting be read to the Executive Committee and its approval be considered sufficient.

The speaker of the afternoon, C. J. H. Woodbury, of the Lynn Society, being presented by the President, read a very interesting paper upon the subject, "What Practical Investigation Is Open to the Local Historical Society, Especially in Co-operation with Allied Organizations?"

The paper was well received, and on motion of Frank Gaylord Cook, Esq., "the thanks of the League were rendered the speaker for his able and instructive paper."

In this connection it may be said the paper of the day was issued in pamphlet form and has been widely distributed among the Historical Societies of the country.

Other forms of work than those referred to by the speaker were outlined by John Albree, of the Swampscott Society, who suggested the importance of original documents as evidence correcting family and local tradition, also the copying of inscriptions in local graveyards.

David H. Brown, of the Medford Society, suggested the printing of the vital records of towns, with the aid furnished by the state, and the importance of attention to the local history.

Mr. Woodbury suggested the importance of collecting photographs.

George Y. Wellington, of Arlington, thought interest in things historical might be increased among the local societies by visits of some official representatives of the League.

Seth Mason, of the Somerville Society, urged the collection and preservation of old family records and papers, and old maps and charts. He suggested the erection of tablets marking historical sites, the procuring of photographs, not only of places, but of old residents, also portraits, or photographic copies of them.

Charles F. Fitz, of the Watertown Society, referred to matters of local interest in his locality, particularly in reference to the old bridge in Watertown and the date of its erection.

On motion, it was voted "that the matter of outlining a method of co-operative work be left with the Executive Committee for its action."

In the line of suggestion at the February, 1905, meeting, the President of the League caused the following circular to be sent to the several local societies belonging to the League:—

"This organization is especially interested in the discovery and collection of early historical letters, diaries, books of account, deeds, commissions, and other documents, and urges its members to make special effort to secure such material in their respective localities.

"If it is not possible to get possession, it would be well to obtain a list of such documents, where located, and whether or not access can be had for purposes of historical investigation.

"The Bay State Historical League will request its members to report, from time to time, what books, papers, etc., have been secured or located. A list by title will be always accessible to members, together with such information concerning each article as the League possesses.

"Members are respectfully urged to investigate along this line, so that early reports may be received and catalogued. Cannot a list of what you already have, and a partial list of newly-discovered articles be forwarded in season for the meeting, February 17, 1906?"

The Eleventh Meeting, being the annual meeting, was held in Concord June 3, 1905. Delegates from Arlington, Billerica, Lynn, Littleton, Malden, Medford, Somerville, Swampscott, Shepard Memorial, and Watertown were present at the business meeting, held in the vestry of the First Parish Church, the President, John F. Ayer, in the chair.

The records of the meetings of June 4, 1904, and February 26, 1905, were read and approved. On motion, the President was requested to appoint a Nominating Committee to present a list of candidates for the several offices for the ensuing year,

and Jesse Fewkes, of Watertown, J. F. Whitney, of Somerville, and Charles E. Hosmer, of Billerica, were appointed on the committee.

The report of the Treasurer, Howard Mudge Newhall, was read and accepted.

The annual report of the Secretary was read, and it was accepted and ordered placed on file.

The Nominating Committee presented the following list: For President, John F. Ayer, of Wakefield; Secretary, Alfred W. Putnam, of Danvers; Treasurer, Howard M. Newhall, of Lynn; Executive Committee, Frank Gaylord Cook, of Cambridge, Frederick E. Fowle, of Arlington, George Tolman, of Concord, and Rev. Dr. Oscar F. Safford, of Peabody.

The Secretary was authorized to cast one ballot, which he did, and the list as presented was declared elected to the several positions named.

Following the business meeting a public meeting was held in the main audience room of the Meeting House of the First Parish in Concord, the programme being as follows:—

A brief address of welcome by Hon. John S. Keyes, President of the Concord Antiquarian Society.

A brief reply by John F. Ayer, President of the Bay State Historical League.

The principal address of the day by Hon. Charles Francis Adams, President of the Massachusetts Historical Society, upon "Town History, Its Value and Study."

At the conclusion of Mr. Adams' address Frank Gaylord Cook, Esq., offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted by a rising vote:—

"Resolved, that the thanks of the League and of its guests be tendered to Hon. Charles Francis Adams for his scholarly and interesting address, and to the First Parish in Concord for their courtesy and hospitality."

A tour of inspection in carriages of historic places in Concord was then enjoyed, under the guidance of George Tolman, Secretary of the Concord Antiquarian Society. The entire range of historic spots and places was included in the drive. The weather was propitious—a perfect June day—and the large company enjoyed this second field day of the League to the

utmost, reluctantly leaving the historic old town as the afternoon drew to its close.

The Twelfth Meeting, being the winter meeting of the League, was held in the Chapel of Boston University, Somerset street, Boston, Saturday afternoon, February 17, 1906. Nearly all the societies belonging to the organization were represented.

A social half-hour was passed, when at 2.30 P. M. the President, John F. Ayer, called the meeting to order. The records of the June meeting were read and approved.

The topic of the day was: "How Can Teachers of History Aid the Work of Historical Societies?" and in a few preliminary remarks the President introduced the speaker, William Oscar Scroggs, of the Graduate Department, and the Ozias Goodwin Memorial Fellow, of Harvard University.

From the very interesting paper of Mr. Scroggs the following extracts are taken:—

"It was the speaker's privilege some weeks ago to attend the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in Baltimore and Washington, and as there were many features of that gathering that will interest those engaged in the work of the local Historical Society, I shall act on the suggestion of your President and preface my remarks with some account of that meeting. The majority of the delegates were teachers of history and members of Historical Societies.

"What may be of especial interest to the Bay State Historical League is an account of the conference on State and Local Historical Societies, which of late years has become a regular feature of the meetings, and at which many of the problems confronting these organizations are fully discussed.

"A new phase of co-operative activity between local societies was explained at this conference by S. P. Heilman, the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies. Dr. M. B. Phillips, of the University of Wisconsin, read a very interesting paper on 'The Documentary Collections in the Old States of the South,' and made special references to those in private hands.

"Concerning the various Historical Societies in the United States, Reuben G. Thwaites, Secretary of the Wisconsin Historical Society, gave it as the opinion of the committee that the most desirable location for the headquarters of a State Society is in the vicinity of some institution of learning, as in such a centre of culture the society can appeal to the largest clientele; and that the greatest room for improvement was in the matter of publications.

"Dr. Franklin Jameson, of the Carnegie Institution, stated that when a society had an opportunity to do a piece of work of real and permanent value, but was prevented through lack of funds, the institute might be able to render assistance. Ultimately, he said, copies of all important papers in the English Public Records office and in European Archives relating to America will finally be accessible in Washington."

It is very evident that through the yearly meetings of the American Historical Association our teachers of history are aiding the Historical Societies.

Teachers in the high school and academy can do much by way of directing the thought of the pupils to the connection of local happenings with the more important affairs of the state or the nation.

If in the schools the forming of the collecting habit among the pupils could be brought about, these young people could do much in the way of securing valuable material hidden away in old attics and in collecting relics, souvenirs, photographs, diaries, etc., and the future of the local societies is in a way in the hands of these teachers of history.

The problem to be solved is how to arouse the interest of students in local history so that after they leave school or college they will take part in the meetings of the Historical Societies. Carefully-trained students will be more valuable in doing historical work than those who approach the task in a less intelligent way.

Mr. Scroggs was given a unanimous vote of thanks for his interesting and suggestive paper.

Brief remarks were made by F. Gaylord Cook, Eugene Tappan, David H. Brown, and Deloraine P. Corey, after which the meeting voted to adjourn.

The Thirteenth Meeting, being the annual meeting, June 2, 1906, was held in the vestry of the South Congregational Church in Ipswich, at the invitation of the Ipswich Historical Society.

Delegates from eleven local societies and many other members were present, the President, John F. Ayer, in the chair. The societies represented were the following: Lynn, Danvers, Peabody, Swampscott, Arlington, Medford, Lexington, Malden, Somerville, Ipswich, and Nantucket.

The Treasurer's report was read and accepted, and ordered placed on file. Howard Mudge Newhall, Alexander Starbuck, and Rev. O. F. Safford were appointed a committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year. The announcement that the President was not a candidate for re-election was made for the information of the committee, and in this connection Mr. Ayer stated, among other things, what he thought the League absolutely needed: Funds to better meet the expenses attending the work, also for office room having a fireproof vault or safe for the protection of the many papers and books, and for suitable stationery. He further suggested a canvass of the local societies—members of the League—to see how many will donate an amount equal to a five-cent assessment upon each of their members annually for the necessary expenses of the League.

That there was great need of properly protecting the answers to the several circulars sent out, and a systematic effort to obtain more information, with the idea that the League send out from time to time detailed statements of the returns received for the benefit of all the members.

The Nominating Committee submitted the following list for officers for the ensuing year: For President, Will C. Eddy, of Medford; Vice-President, John Albree, of Swampscott; Treasurer, Howard Mudge Newhall, of Lynn; Secretary, John F. Ayer, of Wakefield; Executive Committee, the above and F. Gaylord Cook, of Cambridge, Rev. Oscar F. Safford, of Peabody, George Tolman, of Concord, and Frederick E. Fowle, of Arlington.

The Secretary was authorized to cast one ballot for the list as presented, which he did, and reported a unanimous vote in

favor of the several candidates, and the President declared them elected.

The President appointed Rev. Oscar F. Safford and Andrew Nichols a committee to represent the League at the memorial service to be held June 3 in Danvers in memory of the late Rev. A. P. Putnam, D. D., one of the organizers of the Bay State Historical League.

Many of those present arrived early in the day, and made a partial tour of the various points of interest until the dinner, which was served by the ladies of the Ipswich Society in the interesting old Colonial "Whipple House."

The speaker of the day was Rev. T. Frank Waters, D. D., President of the Ipswich Society, whose subject was: "The Essential Elements of Fruitful Historical Research," and the remarks of the speaker were listened to with absorbing interest, for he spoke with the authority of one having experience along "fruitful" lines.

At the close of the meeting it was intended to make a tour of inspection of the many interesting houses and spots of historic worth, but a severe thunder shower interrupted the programme, and the friends were obliged to leave for home even before the rain had ceased to fall.

The thanks of the League were tendered to the Ipswich Society for its hospitality, and to the speaker for his most interesting and instructive address.

Concerning the "Whipple House," the home of the Ipswich Historical Society, it may be said that, of the many Colonial houses in the country, it stands pre-eminent among them all. No finer specimen of Colonial architecture is to be found, and it is kept in the most perfect home-like order. The inspection of this building alone was well worth the journey to the scene of "The Simple Cobbler of Agawam."

The Fourteenth Meeting, being a delegate meeting, was held in the home and at the invitation of the Medford Historical Society November 24, 1906. The subject for consideration as announced was: "The Elements of Success in a Local Historical Society." Twenty-six societies sent representatives, to wit:

Somerville, Old Newbury, Billerica, Peabody, Canton, Medfield, Danvers, Quincy, Medford, Dorchester, Arlington, Shepard, Haverhill, Littleton, Worcester, Nantucket, Malden, Hyde Park, Brookline, Lynn, Sharon, Bedford, Swampscott, Bridgewater, Weymouth, and Fitchburg.

The President, Will C. Eddy, welcomed the guests on behalf of the Medford Society, and after stating the purpose of the meeting, called upon David H. Brown, of Medford, to open the discussion. He gave at some length the methods adopted by his Society, which included how to interest members in the work, the preparation of the annual programme a long way in advance, the establishing a "Quarterly" wherein many of the papers read had appeared from time to time, and all others had been published "by title."

Howard Mudge Newhall, of Lynn, told of the work in the Lynn Society, particularly the social side of the work, while he emphasized the fact that the other side of the work had not been neglected. The lady members of the Society having established the custom of afternoon teas, many other ladies were induced to join. The cost was little, while much satisfaction resulted. The new members in time became contributors, reading papers some of them, and otherwise helping along the work of the Society.

Lynn advertises their Society all the time. Outsiders are invited to the meetings. Some thus visiting in time become members. In Lynn a good many young people have joined the Historical Society. Financially it has been successful. Money has come easy in Lynn. The social features have contributed to the growth of the organization. The membership now is 550, and new members are coming in all the while. Among other interesting statements, Mr. Newhall said: "The Essex Institute danced early in life to get a footing." The Lynn Society publishes a book from time to time, encourages photography, and points with pride to its many pictures in black and white. It stands, as all Historical Societies stand, for the best there is in the community.

H. N. Comey, of Danvers, believed in Lynn methods of work.

James Sidney Allen, Vice-President of the Old Bridge-

water Society, gave in detail some of the experiences of his organization. Every possible method is adopted to make the meetings attractive. Historical places have been marked recently, and the interest in things historical grows. The attendance is better; the Society has established itself in a new building, centrally located, and the change has proved advantageous.

Eugene Tappan, Secretary of the Sharon Society, gave a breezy account of how that society has built itself up. "A social half-hour is observed at every meeting; refreshments are served from time to time, crackers and tea—good crackers cost but little, but are very helpful." Outings are successfully held. It issues pamphlets from time to time. Every society, he claimed, should print something. A feature with the Sharon Society is the "Scrap Book." Historical facts, incidents, events of the day, anecdotes of individuals, etc., are contributed by the townspeople to make up the volume. The fourth book is now being made up. It proposed to celebrate the 275th anniversary of the birth of Washington, and he declared "the Sharon Society flourishes."

Charles G. Chick, President of the Hyde Park Society, told of that organization starting as a social club, but did not succeed very well. It then became incorporated as an Historical Society. It procured attractive headquarters, and in two or three years outgrew its apartments. Room in the Public Library at considerable expense served the growing needs of the Society for a few years, when it appealed to the town and secured the free use of apartments in one of the finest Library buildings in the state. The Society publishes a pamphlet whenever sufficient material has been secured; it celebrated its twentieth anniversary April 19, 1907.

Mr. Hyde, of the Weymouth Society, gave some interesting features of the work of that organization, always historical in its efforts. It has been in existence for twenty-five years, among the oldest in the state.

John Albree, President of the Swampscott Society, made special mention of the class that joins but never attends the meetings. He advocated a detailed or illustrated circular, descriptive in a sense, rather than the simple notice commonly

sent out of the topic of the evening as tending to awaken greater interest and bring that element in.

C. J. H. Woodbury offered the following: "Voted, that the Secretary of each society be requested to send to the Secretary of the Bay State Historical League, before January 1, 1907, a list of titles and authors of papers read before his society during the past five years, and that the Secretary of the Bay State Historical League be and hereby is instructed to print such list and send a copy to the Secretary of each society belonging to the League." The vote as offered was carried in the affirmative.

The thanks of the League were tendered the Medford Society for its hospitality. The bountiful spread furnished by the host tended to emphasize the leading thought of the evening that social features had much to do with the growth and prosperity of the local Historical Society.

The Fifteenth Meeting was a delegate meeting, held, by invitation of the Hyde Park Historical Society, at its rooms in the Public Library on Friday, April 19, 1907, President Will C. Eddy in the chair.

The afternoon proved stormy, but there was a good representation, delegates and others representing the following local societies: Medford, Brookline, Lynn, Norwood, Watertown, Foxboro, Arlington, Somerville, South Natick, Sharon, Shepard, Quincy, Nantucket, Worcester Society of Antiquity, Haverhill, Peabody, Malden, Dedham, Swampscott, Topsfield, Essex Institute, Old Newbury, Hyde Park, Canton, Mendon, and Norwood.

The subject as announced was: "The Opportunities for and the Scope of the Work of Local Historical Societies." Papers were read by George Francis Dow, of Topsfield, Secretary of the Essex Institute; Mrs. Elizabeth Osborne, of Peabody; Mrs. W. E. Lummus, of Lynn; Julius A. Tuttle, of Dedham; and Mrs. Anna C. Moody, of Newburyport.

These papers were of marked ability, full of interest, and presented various sides of historical work, with many suggestions of ways and means for carrying on local work under financial difficulties, practical and thoroughly appreciated and

commented upon by the delegates, who had much of value to take home and report to their several societies.

Following the above speakers, there was a hearty interchange of opinions concerning the features of the addresses and of subjects casually introduced by the participants.

Many of the delegates raised questions, and there was in the replies much to the satisfaction and edification of all present. Many of the responses were presented in a very lively, not to say humorous, way, and the discussion was of a character to be long remembered by all present.

Eight local societies were admitted to membership in the League, viz.: Worcester Society of Antiquity, Foxboro, Bedford, Brookline, Canton, Dorchester, Old Newbury, and Roxbury.

The attention of the delegates was called to the financial needs of the League, and from the Hyde Park, Lynn, Swampscott, Brookline, Medford, Quincy, and Malden Societies came generous offers of funds to carry forward the immediate work that the council desired to do.

After the adjournment, the Hyde Park Society acting as host, the delegates and friends were escorted to the banquet hall, where a fine hot supper was provided, and to this all gave their strict attention. This was wholly informal, and was made the occasion for forming acquaintances and planning for future work. The thanks of the League were voted to the Hyde Park Historical Society for its generous hospitality.

The Sixteenth Meeting was the annual meeting, held, at the invitation of the Marblehead Historical Society, at their headquarters July 20, 1907.

President Nathan P. Sanborn, of the local society, welcomed the delegates to Marblehead in a very interesting address, which was responded to by President Will C. Eddy, of the League.

The records of the last annual meeting, and also the records of the Medford and the Hyde Park meetings, were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report, showing a respectable balance in the treasury, with only a single bill of \$2.50 unpaid, was approved and ordered placed on file. The auditor, F. D. Lapham,

of Somerville, reported the figures correct and the balance on hand as stated by the Treasurer.

The following societies were represented, viz.: Swampscott, Danvers, Medford, Somerville, Littleton, Foxboro, Nantucket, Watertown, Arlington, Lynn, Peabody, Shepard, and Wakefield.

The Fitchburg, Stoughton, and Fort Massachusetts (of North Adams) Societies were elected to membership in the League.

A Nominating Committee, consisting of Messrs. Fuller, Starbuck, and Nichols, was appointed to present a list of candidates for the several offices for the ensuing year. While the committee was out, the report of the Secretary was read, accepted, and ordered placed on file.

The Nominating Committee presented the following names for the consideration of the meeting: For President, Will C. Eddy, of Medford; Vice-President, John Albree, of Swampscott; Secretary, John F. Ayer, of Wakefield; Treasurer, Howard Mudge Newhall, of Lynn; members of the Executive Committee, the above and Frederick E. Fowle, of Arlington, Rev. Dr. Oscar F. Safford, of Peabody, Charles G. Chick, of Hyde Park, and Frank E. Woodward, of Malden.

The Secretary was authorized to cast one ballot for the entire list, which he did, and the above list of candidates was declared elected to the positions named.

John Albree offered the following as a substitute for Article III., last paragraph: "Requests for membership shall be in writing to the President, and upon approval of the Executive Committee such applicants shall become members by complying with the requirements of Article VI.," which was adopted by the meeting.

The President announced that an invitation had been received from the Haverhill Historical Society for the League to hold a delegate meeting at "The Buttonwoods," the home of the Society.

The thanks of the League were voted to the Marblehead Society for their hospitality, and at 4.30 o'clock the meeting adjourned.

Following the business meeting, a tour of historical points,

for which Marblehead is famous, was made, under the guidance of Mr. Frank Broughton, of the local society.

The delegates and friends were shown about the quaint old town, its many objects of historical interest pointed out, and much interesting information was obtained concerning the early days of old Marblehead.

The Seventeenth Meeting was a delegate meeting, held at "The Buttonwoods," by the picturesque Merrimack river in Haverhill, September 21, 1907.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Will C. Eddy, and welcomed to Haverhill by President Frothingham, of the local society.

The President of the League responded and congratulated the friends upon meeting under such happy auspices, with a flourishing society so magnificently housed, and so well calculated to do historical work of a high order.

The topic for discussion was: "Co-operation in Historical Work," and the President called upon Charles G. Chick, Esq., who presented a very interesting paper, from which is selected the following:—

"The text, Mr. President, I believe to be 'Co-operation in Historical Work.' It is one of the marvels of the day that local communities all over our state have taken up historical work. In almost every well-regulated city and town is to be found its organized Historical Society. It is quite the fashion to become a member of these societies. In fact, the person who does not belong is hardly in good standing in his community.

"These societies have largely come into existence during the past ten or fifteen years. There are a few of more ancient date, but in most of such cases they will be found to have existed on paper and without much work. How long will the present enthusiasm exist? What general benefits can be received from this enthusiasm?

"Let us look over the field. Many towns are old in years and rich in history. Many towns are young in years and seemingly without history. Such towns afford scant field for certain kinds of historical work.

"They have no old houses, no old roads, no old churches, nor schools, nor battle grounds. If perchance there are any,

they were built or created when in a town of another name. In fact, these have been legislated from a town of one name to a town of another name.

"Questions of old town boundaries and monuments are always of interest, and how often changed by legislation! Cemeteries established in one town may be found in a township of another name. In fact, starting from the early laying out, you will find that from the original township several towns have been made, and the history of the newly-established town must be traced through several others. Persons interested as founders thus become related to several towns, and their lives and work are eagerly sought for in the records of several societies.

"I have in mind now the question lately agitated, 'What town first supported a free "public" school?' and Dedham and Dorchester both claim the honor, and each upon good grounds. Now my own town, incorporated in 1868, can claim with right a portion of the honor without question, as Hyde Park was created from Dedham, and Dorchester, and Milton.

"The histories of our towns are interwoven, and at once suggest a field of co-operation between local societies, where much labor may be saved and several societies benefited.

"Take a question of old boundaries. When located by one society, and the old monuments established, why should not all societies interested in that question have the locations without going over the same ground? The same is true as to old buildings and important spots which are of general interest.

"When a local society has made the investigation and established the accuracy of position and facts, why should not this data be at the service of all others interested? It may be said it is, but unless we are acquainted in some way with the work of each other, we are ignorant, and know not what subjects have been investigated. And so it often happens that several societies will work out the same question. Can we suggest a way that shall keep our live societies in close touch with each other, so that we may be each for all and all for each? Again, is it not possible for the League to carefully note persons and places of general historical importance and ask the local society to take up such matter for us all, and in due course bring it to

the League meeting for general benefit. If such should be done, then comes this question for us to consider: How shall we as a League preserve the result of such work, and have it presented and distributed? Can we publish? Don't answer, but think.

"In many of our towns are historic spots. Indian Rock in Franklin, Medway Pines in Medway, the Vose House in Milton. These are samples, and are of much interest when examined.

"Local societies have easy access to the data necessary for an accurate historical statement upon any given subject within the town. They have the old records, can interview the oldest inhabitant, and thus fix facts more readily than their neighbors. This is often done, and societies are spending much time in collecting just such valuable information. What becomes of it?

"The local society has a treat some evening when the result of this long research is given to it served up as only a real historical writer can do it, and as many of you have done for your societies. The paper is then accepted with thanks, placed on file, or kept by the writer, mislaid, and possibly lost. No other society has the treat or the information. To get it some member must go over the same ground. And if the papers are lost, the next generation must start where we have. Can the League be of service in this matter, and aid individual societies to a knowledge of the facts procured by all? Can it keep us in touch with each other, so that we may all have in turn the treat?

"We certainly ought to be able to co-operate in this matter of historical papers. Where societies are able to print and do print valuable papers, they are preserved, and by a system of exchanges all may be benefited by local research. Where societies are not able to print, can a system of co-operation be established whereby these papers may be printed and saved for the future generations?

"The Bay State Historical League, made up of local societies, is in a position to take a broader view of the field, and to get hold of and preserve, or have preserved, facts, histories of persons, and events of wider public interest and value to the future state historian.

"This is the era of co-operation from the management of

the family to that of the gigantic enterprises of the day. To each is assigned a part, and each department cares for its own. If local societies are taking up specific work, would it not be of great value if a system was established so that others interested could co-operate, and when the work is completed have all share in the results?

"We have already arranged for a system of exchange of papers where desired, which I believe will help our local societies in securing much valuable information, as well as entertainment. I have suggested some fields for co-operation. There are many more that will occur to you.

"This League is but beginning its own history. Whether that be long or short depends upon the co-operation of the societies that constitute it. If it is to be long, we must devise plans to make it of real service in safeguarding the history of the Commonwealth. We must do work to justify our existence. We are not rich; in fact, we have yet to settle a permanent source of revenue. However, I believe, if our work justifies an expenditure, ways can be found to get the funds.

"Mr. President, if by these crude remarks hastily prepared at odd moments I have contributed one spark of a suggestion that will aid in bringing interest and benefit to the local societies, and enable us to better safeguard the history of our Commonwealth, then have not my moments been spent in vain."

Miss Helen T. Wild, of Medford, followed, and in a very attractive manner read a paper upon "Practical Co-operation," saying in part:—

"We have all heard the fable of the bundle of withes, and it seems to me that our individual historical societies may be likened to single sticks; whether good ones or poor ones, we have little power alone. Bound together in a league like this, we gain strength and utility if we combine our forces intelligently. Alone, we can accomplish something, but not much, in arousing public sentiment to preserve the relics of the past. I do not mean the pots and platters, spinning wheels, and Chippendale chairs of our grandmothers, but the more lasting monuments and documents which are themselves history.

"Even the expressions used in old letters and papers make

us acquainted with the writers and the times in which they lived. Their manners and customs are almost as clearly shown as their features are in the silhouettes and paintings of the day. For that reason I cannot pass by a paper yellowed with age, and it hurts me to see one of them ruthlessly destroyed. Perhaps I am an extremist in this (although I think I have kindred spirits in this company), and I cannot comprehend why people can ask with a note of pity in their tone, 'Do you really enjoy poking over those musty things?'

"The average genealogist or historian is regarded as a person afflicted with a mild form of insanity, until his neighbor, in some business way, requires his assistance. I have in mind a case in point: A distant relative of my own died at the age of ninety, with no direct heirs; although she made a will, the law of her state demanded that every one of her legal heirs, whether mentioned or not, should be notified, if possible.

"I have a copy of the notice in my possession, containing over 100 names, with addresses in almost as many places. Heirs appeared from all quarters, and some of the good lady's money will go to people she never heard of. Lost heirs and flaws in titles are constantly making such work necessary, and then the genealogist is not so daft as he might be.

"The custom that many historical societies have of asking all the members to write out their genealogy as far back as possible for the archives of the organization is useful in just this way. If this were done in every society in this League and made accessible to all, this association would be in a position to assist many in legal difficulty.

"Those who have not worked on town records have no idea of their incompleteness. The laws of Massachusetts are as good as possible regarding vital statistics, but the most faithful official finds it well-nigh impossible to receive correct returns.

"In the light of present difficulties, I wonder that the old records are of any use at all.

"All historical societies should institute a Bible hunt, and begin it now.

"I was shocked to find that Boston had only one book of births for fifty years prior to 1849; for that reason Mr. Mc-

Glenen, the city registrar, has, whenever possible, made copies of Bible records, but they are necessarily very meagre. The records of all towns during that period were not so well kept as before or since, and it is pitiful that many old soldiers are debarred from obtaining age pensions, owing to carelessly-kept records of births. The other day a veteran of our home company asked me by letter from Seattle, Wash., if I would look up and send him his birth certificate. He was born in Boston in 1842. There was no family Bible that he could reach; there was nothing to prove his identity, and he would have had great difficulty and perhaps failure in establishing his claim if the tax lists of Boston had not been better kept than the vital records. His first registration proved his age.

"The family Bibles are found all over the country which have been carried hither and yon from the old Massachusetts towns; and, on the other hand, Bibles that have stayed at home have records of many who have wandered far.

"It is really agreeable work to go about from one old house to another, copying Bible records. To copy them in the old-fashioned parlors, with ladies of the old school looking over your shoulder to give information and here and there an anecdote, takes you out of the hurry-scurry, and you feel almost surprised when you find yourself on the street boarding an electric car.

"The 'Warnings' could with profit be worked up in the same manner. County records, if copied by a committee of the League and distributed among the societies, would add much additional data to the fragmentary records of 'warned out' notices in the possession of the towns.

"These documents, in Medford, have been indexed, and the Historical Society has published them in the Historical Register. In spite of the horror with which many an amateur has received the information that his ancestor was warned out of town, he has thanked us for giving him valuable help from these sources.

"Every old town that has not indexed its records should be labored with, and if that fails (probably from the time-honored excuse of lack of funds), the local historical and patriotic societies should go to work on it themselves. My home

city has indexed almost every book and document it has, except the selectmen's records, and that work is in progress. The public, if it comprehended the great gain in time and labor that indexing produced, would demand it.

"Selectmen's records have been too much neglected in the past. Comparatively few interested in matters historical call for them; but they are side lights upon town records which often supply the reasons for actions taken in town meeting. They are the only records which give the whole history of the establishment of highways which are not county roads.

"The inside history of the projection and completion of many things are here brought out, such as the introduction of sidewalks, first gravel, then concrete and brick; the evolution of the street lamp, gas and water piping, and a thousand modern improvements which have had their day or are still in vogue, are all found in the selectmen's records. Dates are given which are hard to find elsewhere.

"Another thing which we have begun in Medford and hope to complete before long is the collection of gravestone inscriptions. Our oldest burial grounds were examined and the epitaphs copied ten years ago. Since then several stones have disappeared. The cemetery which is now in use was first occupied about 1860, and until 1885 or thereabouts the records of interments were carelessly kept; an examination of the stones dated prior to 1885 would be of great help to the public and to the present management of the cemetery, not so much for historical purposes now as for practical everyday use, but in years to come of untold value to the genealogist.

"What is the use of all our historical data tucked away in dusty books? Few have the time to hunt and few have the money to pay a professional to act as proxy. The League should co-operate to the end that public records of all the towns in Massachusetts should be ready at a moment's notice for the use of the public.

"The state has done grand work in indexing and publishing the list of Massachusetts soldiers and sailors of the Revolution. The records of the Colonial wars are just as valuable. Can we not as a League work together to urge that state government

to continue the system they already use, applying it to the soldiers of the Colonial wars?

"Let them be indexed first, and then, if possible, published.

"The state officials are usually ready if they know that the people desire the work done. The vital statistics, now in process of publication, and the records of the Revolutionary War bear out this statement.

"I have had little experience with county records, except in Middlesex and Suffolk. The probate records of the former are easier of access. A great many early Middlesex records are in the court house in Boston. These county records should be at least indexed; some of them ought to be published. Deeds and probate notices are already indexed, but there is a large mass of court documents which should be so arranged in better form, for the convenience of inquirers. Every town in Massachusetts ought to have abstracts of all deeds, probate and court proceedings pertaining to itself on file within its own boundaries. The modern assessors are looking after current land transfers and probate records, and we find them very useful and labor-saving; but the old records are almost entirely useless to the average searcher with bread-winning on his hands, outside of his historical work. But, inasmuch as 'many hands make light work,' a delegation from different societies could remedy this condition of things either by actual copying, hiring trained clerks, or by influencing the powers that be to take up the matter officially. Care should be taken in the selection of copyists; word by word, letter by letter should be the rule, and whoever tried to improve on the old style should be promptly retired from service.

"The publication of the Vital Statistics of Massachusetts is improving conditions to some extent, and a few clerks have taken up the subject voluntarily, but until comparatively recent years a minister was not obliged to make duplicate returns, and some of us know not the day or the place of our parents' marriage, although we have seen the record of the intention. Another duty for the League.

"A compendium has been recently published giving the whereabouts of historical manuscripts and publications. . . . While it does not pretend to be complete, for we are all making

'finds' in out-of-the-way corners, it could not have been undertaken without the co-operation of historical societies all over the country. It is a grand example of what can be accomplished by a federation of all organizations interested in such subjects.

"Is there not work enough for all of us? Local history is not local. To understand old records well, comprehensive study of the politics and civilization of Europe at that time is necessary.

"History ought to be taught by taking children, if possible, to some landmark, and letting them begin there to ask and answer questions. Before they have been the rounds of our old towns, they will have learned the greater part of the history of the nation. A Colonial house in many a town is full of significance, as the Craigie, Nourse, or Royall houses.

"The soldiers' monuments and Memorial Day teach the child the story of the Civil War; but let it be told now with a broad-minded charity to both sides.

"I like old china, old furniture, old everything, if beautiful or instructive. I believe in keeping what is worth saving. Massachusetts and the other states of New England are the wells to which the great West comes to draw the waters of tradition and history. Let us keep them clear and sweet.

"I have studied local history in a different way from most people. Almost everything I have done has been for some definite end, not for my own gratification. But I have been paid for my work a hundred fold by the pleasure I have gained from my labor.

"The great handicap to our success in research is that we do not begin early enough. We are so interested in the things of the present in youth that we do not discover the magnitude of the harvest till the summer is waning and the laborers, we comprehend, are few.

"Let our harvesting be carried on over against our own house, but if by chance we glean on common land, let us promptly place our gains in the common storehouse."

Charles F. Read, of Brookline, followed with a very interesting paper upon "Co-operation and the Local Society." Some of the principal features were:—

In opening, Mr. Read said that co-operation of the various historical societies of the state was necessary to ensure the success of the Bay State Historical League, and said in this connection that at the present time about one-half of the historical societies of the state had become members of the League. This is cause for congratulation, and promises success in the future.

The custom of holding the occasional meetings of the League in historic towns, by invitation of local societies, is most helpful, for, in addition to the social side, it brings into close range local history, which combines to make the glorious record of our Commonwealth in the past. Witness to-day in Haverhill, where we are gathered, the names of John Greenleaf Whittier and Hannah Dustin; one reminiscent of the ways of peace, the other of war in its most awful form.

Further benefit to the League can be secured if the delegates to meetings report verbally or in writing to their respective societies.

An annual or quarterly report, or even an occasional publication of the League, would be of great advantage. Such publications would naturally find place in the libraries of historical societies, especially in this state. In this connection, also, a recent publication of the League, giving lists of papers read before the various historical societies constituting the membership of the League, is to be commended. These lists furnish assistance in preparing for papers to be read before the various societies.

The speaker also commended a feature brought recently to the attention of the League by one of its officers. This is the issuing of notices of meetings in an attractive form. If printed in note form in displayed type, and especially if such notices contain some scrap of local history, they cannot fail to arouse the interest of the members of a society using them.

In conclusion, Mr. Read spoke of the continued great prosperity of the nation, and said that he could not but feel that while the pursuit of material things was all-engrossing, the people at large also desired that the historic past should be studied and thereby preserved.

On motion of Mr. Read, the sympathy of the Bay State

Historical League was extended to the venerable President of the Brookline Society, Captain R. G. F. Candage, with the earnest wish for his speedy recovery from the illness which is so seriously affecting him.

The publication of the papers that have been read before the League was earnestly advocated by several of the delegates, including Messrs. Chick, Read, and the Secretary, in order that the members might have the benefit of the good things presented at the several meetings of the organization, a suggestion that met with a hearty response from all present.

Reference was made to the recent death of Rev. Dr. Oscar F. Safford, a member of the Executive Committee for several years, and his interest in and prompt attendance upon the meetings of the League were alluded to. Dr. Safford was among the very first to encourage the organizing of the League, and thoroughly believed in the good that would result from such co-operation among the local societies. His memory will long be cherished by all who were privileged to know him as an historical investigator and writer.

There was a general discussion of historical ways and of co-operative work among the local organizations, the delegates being thus enabled to take back to their societies many practical ideas and suggestions of value.

There were present delegates and friends from the Newburyport, Bradford, Haverhill, Old Newbury, Medford, Nantucket, Brookline, Hyde Park, Wakefield, Somerville, Danvers, Lynn, Billerica, Swampscott, and Arlington Societies.

Alexander Starbuck, President of the Nantucket Historical Society, called attention to the pamphlet recently issued, "Sources of Local History in the Towns of Massachusetts," as being a very valuable acquisition to the historical literature of the day.

The thanks of the League were extended to the Haverhill Society for their generous hospitality, the latter having bountifully provided a lunch for all in attendance, which was served "in the open" and under the shade of the great trees on the spacious lawn of "The Buttonwoods."

After the adjournment the friends, under the guidance of

representatives of the Haverhill Society, were conveyed by trolley to the Whittier home, where an hour was spent in seeing the many treasures of the olden-time building, and wandering about on the farm immortalized as the scene of "Snow Bound." It was a rare treat, and all enjoyed to the utmost the inspection of this celebrated and wonderfully interesting home of the late John Greenleaf Whittier.

The Eighteenth Meeting was held, through the courtesy of the Essex Institute, at its magnificent apartments in Salem December 7, 1907.

At an early hour in the afternoon many representatives of the local historical societies arrived and began the inspection of both the building and the great exhibit of rare historical relics, including the celebrated Ward China Library. In addition, the countless treasures in furniture, portraits, clothing, implements, china and glass ware of ye olden time were very much in evidence.

The President, Will C. Eddy, at 2.30 o'clock announced the topic for discussion: "Genealogy as a Field of Work for Local Historical Societies," and introduced as the opening speaker of the afternoon Hon. Charles F. Jenney, of Hyde Park.

In his remarks Mr. Jenney referred to the study of genealogy "generally" rather than "specifically," declaring that the study may have a broadening view, or it may be otherwise. Nothing, said the speaker, has developed historical societies so much as this interest in genealogy, claiming the study would have justified itself because of this, if for no other reasons, and that the growing interest in genealogy was largely the reason for organizing so many local historical societies.

Mrs. Harriet F. Parker, of Lynn, compiler of "The Bronsdon and Box Families," and Secretary of the Genealogical Committee of the Lynn Historical Society, gave a most interesting address in line of the topic of the day, and because of her large experience in matters genealogical her remarks were well received, and commanded the undivided attention of all.

David H. Brown, well and favorably known as the President of the Medford Historical Society, was the next speaker, and in a characteristic talk, vivacious, witty, and somewhat

reminiscent, he told the company some startling facts that had been the result of his genealogical investigation. He heartily commended the work as an aid in the pursuit of historical data, as well as a fascinating study of itself.

Sidney Perley, of Salem, editor of the *Essex Antiquarian*, and author of "The History of Boxford," brought to the meeting a more approved, a less arduous method of investigation, to many a revelation in the art of looking up one's ancestry.

He declared genealogy to be imperative in the work of the Historical Society, that it should go hand in hand, in the societies, with the historical study; that the society having even one young man or woman thoroughly interested in genealogy was fortunate and, as he expressed it, "mighty rich."

"Economy not waste of time" and "the copying and indexing of all the records of the town"—deeds, probate records, cemetery inscriptions, etc.—were the two thoughts he would leave for the friends to think about.

The Executive Committee was authorized to fill the vacancy in the Board because of the death of Rev. Oscar F. Safford, D. D.

The thanks of the League were extended to the speakers of the day, with the assurance of the League's appreciation of their efforts.

The attendance at this meeting was not confined to delegates, as upon several previous occasions, but a general invitation was extended to the members of the local societies to attend and examine the rich historical collection of the Essex Institute, its library of 400,000 volumes, including the best collection of books in this country upon China and the Chinese, and a thousand or more "Ships' Logs" and "Sea Journals" that vividly recall life on the privateers and merchantment of by-gone days.

Here the visitor may find 20,000 items of interest relating to or written by Essex county people of early times, besides an extensive assortment of the publications of historical, literary, and scientific societies of the world.

The thanks of the League were voted to the Essex Institute for its hospitality in opening its house for the accommodation and edification of the friends.

NECROLOGY OF PAST OFFICERS OF THE BAY STATE HISTORICAL LEAGUE

REV. EDWARD AUGUSTUS RAND.

Edward Augustus Rand was born in Portsmouth, N. H., April 5, 1837, and died in Watertown, Mass., October 5, 1903. He prepared for college at the Portsmouth High School, and was graduated at Bowdoin College in 1857, being the poet of his class at Commencement.

After teaching for a few years in the high schools of Gardiner and Biddeford, Me., he prepared for the ministry at Bangor and Union Seminaries.

Mr. Rand then served for three months with the Christian Commission during the Civil War, after which he was successively pastor of Congregational churches in Amesbury, South Boston, and Franklin, Mass.

He was ordained to the ministry of the Episcopal church in 1880, and in 1882 removed to Watertown, Mass., where he resided until his death, serving during this period as first rector of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

Becoming much interested in the local history of Watertown, he was elected Vice-President of the Watertown Historical Society when the society was organized in 1888, and was elected its President in 1891, serving in that office until his death.

Mr. Rand wrote many papers for the Watertown Historical Society, and was besides well known as a writer of boys' books. When the Bay State Historical League was organized Mr. Rand was elected a member of the Executive Committee, which position he held at the time of his decease.

GEORGE ORLANDO SMITH.

George Orlando Smith was born in Lexington, Mass., January 5, 1832, and died in Somerville, Mass., November 16, 1903.

He was educated in the public schools of Lexington, and later became engaged in business in Boston, and continued it until his death. He was a resident of Lexington until within a short time of his death.

The study of local history appealed to him, and he was therefore interested in the affairs of the Lexington Historical Society, of which he was President, which conserved the history of the "Birthplace of American Liberty."

Having accumulated a large estate, he left by his will to the Lexington Historical Society the sum of \$10,000, the interest of which is at first for historical research, and later for general use. Mr. Smith in his will also made other generous bequests for educational and charitable purposes.

He was Secretary of the meetings held preliminary to the formation of the Bay State Historical League in 1903, but declined to become its first permanent Secretary.

JOHN WELCH PORTER.

John Welch Porter was born in Danvers, Mass., September 25, 1835, and died in that town December 10, 1903. He was a lifelong resident of his native town, but practiced the profession of law in the city of Salem for many years. He took a deep interest in town affairs in Danvers, and was also active in church work.

Mr. Porter was much interested in the local history of Danvers, and also in the Danvers Historical Society, as well. He served on the first executive board of the Bay State Historical League from 1903 until his death.

REV. OSCAR FITZALAN SAFFORD, D. D.

Oscar Fitzalan Safford was born in Oldtown, Me., December 25, 1837, and died in Peabody, Mass., September 14, 1907.

After passing his early life in Winslow, Waterville, and Augusta, Me., he completed the course at Canton Theological School at Canton, N. Y. He then filled several pastorates, notably those in Peabody, Mass., Chicago, Ill., Cambridge, Mass., where he served fourteen years, and again in Peabody. In 1885 he received the Doctorate degree from Buchtel College.

Dr. Safford retired from the active ministry in 1900, and became editor of a publication of the Universalist church.

Among his many activities, Dr. Safford was interested in American and local history, and a member of the Executive Committee of the League from the organization till the date of his death.

HOWARD MUDGE NEWHALL.

Howard Mudge Newhall was born in Lynn, Mass., May 7, 1854, and died in that city December 25, 1908.

He was a lifelong resident of his native place, where he was engaged for many years in the real estate and insurance business. He was also prominently identified with many of the business, religious, and social organizations of Lynn, and at the time of his lamented death he was esteemed as one of its leading citizens.

He was greatly interested in the study of local history, and contributed largely to the success of the Lynn Historical Society, of which he was Secretary for several years.

Mr. Newhall was Treasurer of the Bay State Historical League at the time of his death, and rendered most efficient service while in office.



